

Hertfordshire Association for Local History

(Charity Number 280449)

News and Events

Autumn 2018



Dates for your Diary

Saturday 10 November 2018	Symposium: <i>Hertfordshire's Development: From Roman City to New Towns</i>
Saturday 18 May 2019	HALH Spring Meeting and AGM
Saturday 9 November 2019	Symposium: <i>Archaeology and History</i>

HALH Symposium 2018

Hertfordshire's Development: From Roman City to New Towns

This year's symposium will be held on **Saturday 10 November 2018** at Lemsford Village Hall, Lemsford, near Welwyn Garden City. The theme will be '**Hertfordshire's Development: From Roman City to New Towns**'. During the twentieth century Hertfordshire played a leading role in the development of **Garden Cities and New Towns**. These developments, however, were not the first planned settlements to be founded in Hertfordshire and in the talks given at the symposium, we shall be ranging widely across the centuries and looking at some very varied types of development. Further details and a booking form can be found on page iv.

Verulamium: Hertfordshire's first Garden City? (Kris Lockyear)

Kris Lockyear is Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at University College, London and Director of the Welwyn Archaeology Society. Since 2013 he has been working with community groups undertaking geophysical surveys in Hertfordshire and nearby counties, including a major new survey of the Roman city of Verulamium.

Kris will draw on the findings of this work in his talk about Verulamium. Founded shortly after the Claudian invasion of AD43, the city served as a major urban centre for the next 400 years. Kris will tell us of how his initial surveys of the site have indicated that the city can be divided into an area of largely elite housing and an area characterised by smaller structures and industrial features. More recently, an aqueduct has been discovered. Kris will also give us the latest thinking on the

purpose of the city's two-mile long wall. Did it enclose grazing land for livestock, industrial sites and gardens as well as dwellings, and if so, does it make Verulamium Britain's first Garden City?

Saxon burghs and medieval market towns (David Short)

David Short has been an active local historian for many years, particularly in Hertfordshire. He was formerly in charge of the Ashwell Field Studies Centre and now runs an education consultancy, Ashwell Education Services. He has long been closely involved in the work of HALH and has written a number of local history books. He is also a parish councillor for Ashwell and a part-time shepherd.

In his talk David will be looking at a number of towns in Hertfordshire which were founded during the Saxon and Medieval periods, including Ashwell, Berkhamsted, Bishop's

website: www.halh.org.uk

Stortford, Hitchin, St Albans, Stevenage and Watford. He will examine why they were built, their layout, and the reasons why they flourished or declined.

**‘No Taxation without Representation’:
The Chartist Land Colony
(Kate Harwood)**

Kate Harwood is a Conservation and Planning Officer for the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust and is a member of the national Gardens Trusts Conservation Committee. She lectures for the University of Cambridge and Birkbeck College, London University, and has led adult education courses in many different parts of the country.

The subject of Kate’s talk is Heronsgate, a settlement founded on the outskirts of Chorleywood by the Chartist Cooperative Land Company in 1846. Its aim was to resettle industrial workers from the cities on small-holdings, making them independent of factory employers and potentially qualifying them for the vote. Kate will put Heronsgate in context, not only with other Chartist colonies but also with the Utopian movement which existed at that time.

Three towns and a village

To round off the morning session we will have a series of short talks, highlighting the character of three Hertfordshire towns and one of its villages at a particular period in their history:

- **Hertford in the eighteenth century (Philip Sheail)**
Philip Sheail is a retired town planner. He has lived in Hertford for over 40 years, and has written and assisted in the publication of books and articles about the social history of the town.
- **St Albans in the eighteenth century (Kate Morris)**
Kate Morris has a master’s degree in Historical Research from the University of York and has published widely on local history topics in both Yorkshire and Hertfordshire. Currently, her special interest is the social history and development of St Albans in the early modern period.

- **Hitchin in the nineteenth century (Audrey Stewart)**

Audrey Stewart is a retired academic librarian and a member of the Hitchin Historical Society. She has long been interested in the Victorian development around Hitchin Station, known as ‘The Triangle’, and the findings of her research, together with those of co-author Valerie Taplin, were published by the Society in 2010 in a book entitled *Two Minutes to the Station*.

- **Lemsford in the nineteenth century (Andy Chapman)**

Andy Chapman is a member of the Lemsford Local History Group. He is a partner in a web design company and puts these skills to good use in providing free websites and updates for the community of Lemsford Parish, including the Lemsford History Website and St John’s Church.

Writers and thinkers on the Garden City idea: Ebenezer Howard and George Bernard Shaw (Sue Morgan)

Sue Morgan is the National Trust House Manager at Shaw’s Corner where she has been resident custodian for ten years. She is also author and dramatist organizing summer play readings and performances at Shaw’s Corner. She is a member of the International Shaw Society and her book, written with Michael Holroyd, on *Bernard Shaw at Shaw’s Corner, Hertfordshire*, was published by the History Press in 2006.

George Bernard Shaw took a keen interest in the leading political and social issues of his day, including Garden Cities. In her talk Sue will read us extracts from the lively correspondence contained in the archive at Shaw’s Corner between Shaw and Ebenezer Howard, the founding father of the Garden Cities Movement.

Letchworth: England’s only new industrial town? (Philippa Parker & Janet Capstick)

Philippa Parker has lived in Hertfordshire for most of her life and in Letchworth since 2014. As a member of the Letchworth Local History Group, she has spent much time studying the history of the town. In 2016 the Group put on

an exhibition about Letchworth's early industrial origins and are now in the process of turning this into a book. Janet Capstick has lived in Letchworth since 2009 in one of the cottages built for the 1905 Cheap Cottages Exhibition which she and her partner have restored, together with its all-important garden, to its original state. She is much involved in Letchworth's Early Cottages Group.

In their talk Philippa and Janet will give us an overview of how Letchworth was conceived and brought into being, with an emphasis on the importance of attracting industry to the town. They will discuss the sometimes precarious financial situation in the early days and the imbalance between employment opportunities and the availability of housing. They also hope to disabuse their listeners of a few of the myths that still plague the discussion of the world's first Garden City.

Stevenage: The first post-war New Town (Jo Ward)

Jo Ward has been curator at Stevenage Museum for the past five years, having previously worked there from 2001–11. The town cele-

brated its seventieth birthday in 2016 and the museum has recently been working with the Town and Country Planning Association and local history enthusiasts to mark this event.

In her talk Jo will cover the origins of the New Town, together with the opposition to its development in the early years and the subsequent fight in the courts. She will then move on to look at the early plans and how they were realised. For this she will draw upon oral histories collected over the past 30 years and an animation commissioned as part of a website funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. She will also incorporate in her talk some early 'option' drawings of the town centre which were uncovered when the museum suffered a flash flood in the summer of 2015.

Future Events

The next HALH Spring Meeting will take place on Saturday 18 May 2019. By then it will be just over ten years since the death of Lionel Munby, and the Spring Meeting will be devoted to celebrating his legacy.

A Message from our Chairman

Dear HALH member

I am sure by now you will be very aware that new rules around data protection have recently come into force. This has resulted in a flurry of activity from all organisations that hold personal details of members. Like me, you have probably grown rather tired of these pinging into your inbox or falling through the letter box, and I hope you will forgive the rather blatant hypocrisy in bemoaning the deluge of correspondence on this subject, at the same time as adding to it.

However, there is a serious point behind all this activity. As we know from the news, personal details have a monetary value to some of the less scrupulous organisations and, as we become ever more digitally connected, it's important that we all do our bit to prevent exploitation of individuals.

To that end, I want to reassure you that we at HALH are aware of our responsibility to keep secure all information offered to us by

members. We will never share your contact details with a third party, nor make these public on our website. Where we are asked to provide contact details of individual members for legitimate local history reasons, we will always ask you first for permission to make that introduction.

At present we hold the following information on members: your name, a postal address for receipt of our journal *Herts Past and Present*, and an email for notifications of HALH events or updates on HALH business. Should any existing member no longer wish us to hold their email address, then we would be happy to remove it from our database.

If you have any worries or concerns, or simply wish to remove your email details from our database, then do get in touch with me.

Julie Moore, Chair of HALH
j.p.2.moore@herts.ac.uk

**HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY
39th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM**

Saturday 10 November 2018

10.00 - 16.30

Lemsford Village Hall, Brocket Road, Lemsford AL8 7TT

**Hertfordshire's Development:
From Roman City to New Towns**

The programme will include talks on:

Verulamium: Hertfordshire's first Garden City? (*Kris Lockyear*)

Saxon burghs and medieval market towns (*David Short*)

'No Taxation without Representation': The Chartist Land Colony (*Kate Harwood*)

Three towns and a village:

18th-century Hertford (*Philip Sheail*); 18th-century St Albans (*Kate Morris*);

19th-century Hitchin (*Audrey Stewart*); 19th-century Lemsford (*Andy Chapman*)

Writers and thinkers on the Garden City idea: Ebenezer Howard and

George Bernard Shaw (*Sue Morgan*)

Letchworth: England's only new industrial town? (*Philippa Parker & Janet Capstick*)

Stevenage: The first post-war New Town (*Jo Ward*)

Tickets £12 for HALH members; £15 for non-members. HALH has decided to discontinue the provision of lunches at the symposium. You can bring your own packed lunch or patronise one of the two pubs near the hall. These are the *Long Arm and Short Arm* (www.mcmullens.co.uk/longarmshortarm) and the *Sun Inn* (www.suninnlemsford.co.uk)

To order tickets please complete the form below and send by 31 October with your cheque (payable to the HALH) and an SAE to:

Julie Moore, 6 Thumbswood, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL7 4QE

Email: j.p.2.moore@herts.ac.uk

NB. Tickets, programme & directions will be posted in October. If you require a receipt before then, please supply an email address or a second SAE.

APPLICATION FORM

Name

Address

Tel. No. or email address

Name(s) for badge(s)

Please send tickets at £12 and/or tickets at £15

Please book a display table for Society

Is your society involved in events or activities which you would like to see featured in *Herts Past and Present*? If so, please contact either:

Ruth Jeavons, 44 Necton Road, Wheathampstead, St Albans, Herts AL4 8AU

(*email: ruth.jeavons@ntlworld.com*); or

Philip Sheail, 41 Cowper Crescent, Hertford SG14 3DZ (email: philip.sheail@gmail.com)

(*Deadlines: third week of January, July*)